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Rep. Boucher to be Honored by CT Narcotics Officers

State Rep. Toni Boucher, R-143rd District, Wilton, Norwalk, has been selected as the first Connecticut legislator to be honored by the state Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association (NEOA) for distinguishing herself in working to combat drug abuse.

The association representing nearly 1,000 drug enforcement officers informed Rep. Boucher that its board of directors has identified her for its first annual legislative award, which will be presented at its spring educational forum in April 2006.

Association President Michael R. Rinaldi informed Rep. Boucher of the award and said, "Congratulations, Rep. Boucher. You have been chosen as our first recipient. We thank you, and we look forward to honoring you for your efforts."

Rep. Boucher said, "It is deeply gratifying to be singled out by an important group of dedicated police officers on such a critical social issue. My only hope is that fewer and fewer young people fall under the life-damaging and potentially fatal power of addictive drugs."

Rep. Boucher has been a leading legislator in helping to send state residents a consistent, coherent legislative message that drug abuse is destructive and deadly. She has worked with groups such as the Norwalk-based Courage to Speak Foundation, which includes parents of drug abuse victims educating the public on the dangers of illegal drugs.

Rep. Boucher has spoken out, particularly on the so-called medical use of marijuana, that marijuana is addictive and causes health problems, rather than alleviates them. She has also worked with state officials and organizations helping to publicize the dangers of various "club" drugs that can contribute to date rape, unwanted pregnancy and other personal and social issues.

The NEOA award is to be presented April 16, 2006.

Rep. Boucher serves the 143rd Assembly District of Wilton and Norwalk in the state House of Representatives.